United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1225
14 September 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council authorizes United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia to protect detainees about to be released from two Serb camps.

+ Former Under-Secretary-General Virendra Dayal designated as Secretary-General's Special Envoy for South Africa.

+ United Nations agencies agree to take immediate action to provide massive infusion of food aid to Somalia; present 100-day plan for humanitarian activites in that country.

+ United Nations helicopter crash-lands in northern province of Uige in Angola on Saturday, 12 September, injuring nine people.

+ United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees is $20 million short of funds, according to the Agency's Commissioner-General.

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The Security Council has agreed to authorize the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the former Yugoslavia to protect detainees about to be released from two Serb camps.

In a letter to Council President José Ayala Lasso (Ecuador) asking the Council's authority, the Secretary-General recalled his proposal last week to expand the mandate of UNPROFOR and a to expand its personnel substantially. Since then, he wrote, he had received a cable from his Personal Representative Cyrus Vance seeking the Council's authority for UNPROFOR, using its existing resources, to protect some 4,000 or more Muslim and Croat detainees expected to be released shortly from Serb detention camps at Manjaca and Trnopolje.

The Secretary-General requested the Council's authority, on an exceptional basis, for UNPROFOR's limited assistance in accompanying land convoys from the camps to cransit facilities in Croatia where the detainees had asked to be taken. He said the Croatian authorities had agreed to the arrangement.

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For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General's letter was dated 12 September.

document S/24549, S/24550

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The Secretary-General has designated former Under-Secretary-General Virendra Dayal as his special envoy to visit South Africa from 16 to 22 September where he will hold follow-up discussions in connection with the implementation of Security Council resolution 772 (1992) concerning the question of South Africa. That resolution authorized the Secretary-General to deploy United Nations observers in South Africa and invited him to assist in the strengthening of the structures set up under the National Peace Accord.

While in South Africa, Mr. Dayal will meet with senior officials of the Government and other relevant parties in regard to developments since his last visit at the end of July, when Mr. Dayal accompanied Cyrus Vance to that country. He will also meet with senior officials of the structures established by the National Peace Accord, including Justice Richard Goldstone, Chairman of the Commission of Enquiry regarding the Prevention of Public Violence and Intimidation.

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Intensified relief efforts by a number of United Nations agencies are expected to follow a visit to Somalia by Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Eliasson and a high-level inter-agency mission, according to a statement issued by the Department for Humanitarian Affairs yesterday. After meeting with various political and clan leaders in Somalia, and with representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), as well as with United Nations relief workers, mission members agreed to take immediate action to provide a massive infusion of food aid to the country.

Within the next 100 days the United Nations agencies committed themselves to undertake the following activities: the World Food Programme (WFP) aims to deliver an estimated 100,000 tonnes of food for general distribution, 90 per cent of it through the ports of Mogadishu and Kismayo, and the rest by air. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will target 300,000 severely malnourished children for supplementary and intensive feeding. UNICEF will conduct a massive measles vaccination programme and in close collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) will provide maternity and pediatric drugs for regional hospitals.

In coordination with the activities of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), related to seeds, tools and livestock, and the food distribution programme of WFP, UNICEF will help resettle displaced families in their home areas. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is to establish a fulltime international presence to support programmes for

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persons returning from Ethiopia. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will undertake relief and recovery activities, giving priority to the restoration of essential basic services.

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It was confirmed today at Headquarters that a United Nations helicopter had crash-landed in the northern province of Uige in Angola on Saturday, 12 September. The accident took place in a sand storm shortly after take-off. The helicopter was funded by the European Economic Community (EEC) and assigned to the Technical Assistance Programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in support of the elections in Angola.

There were 24 persons on board, including seven personnel of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II), four crew and 13 Angolan election officials. Nine people were injured and the Russian pilot and co-pilot were incapacitated.

* * *

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) is $20 million short of funds, according to the Agency's Commissioner-General, Ilter Turkmen. He told representatives of United Nations Member States in Vienna that the special funding was needed to carry out essential operations to improve the quality of life for Palestine refugees.

At the annual meeting of the Agency's Advisory Commission, held at the end of last week, Mr Turkmen noted that his appeal last November for $25 million for the agency's emergency programmes - an appeal which was reissued in April - had yielded only $6.7 million. He said "important activities" were on hold until the funding could be assured.

The UNRWA Advisory Commission, which consists of representatives of ten governments, said it was essential that the agency's projects and programmes be given the necessary means to improve the the situation of the refugees. The Commission called on existing donors to increase their contributions, and asked those not already contributing to start doing so.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1226
15 September 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ At first plenary meeting of forty-seventh General Assembly session, its new President, Foreign Minister of Bulgaria, Stoyan Ganev, expresses hope that current session will develop and specify ways of further involving United Nations in solving conflict in former Yugoslavia.

+ Security Council authorizes enlargement of United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Secretary-General, in address at Dag Hammarskjold Luncheon, reviews his first Annual Report on Work of Organization to be released tomorrow.

+ General Assembly President, closing forty-sixth session, urges strengthened role for United Nations in international relations.

+ Cooperation rather than confrontation stressed by Secretary-General in message marking International Peace Day.

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Addressing the first meeting of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly this afternoon, its new President, Foreign Minister of Bulgaria, Stoyan Ganev, said it was natural to expect that this session would develop and specify the most appropriate ways of further involving the United Nations in the solution of the conflict in former Yugoslavia. Coordination between the United Nations peace-keeping operations and the other regional efforts was an important factor in ensuring positive results.

Mr. Ganev said that Bulgaria, as "one of the islands of stability in the turbulent Balkans", had found a civilized solution to ethnic problems which in neighbouring countries had given rise to dangerous conflicts with serious international consequences.

Efforts to solve regional conflict would remain high on the United Nations agenda, the new Assembly President said. The work and the decisions of the Assembly and the Security Council, as well as the energetic efforts of the Secretary-General, lay the foundation for effective action in the field of

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For information media—not an official record

preventive diplomacy, peace-making, peace-keeping and post-conflict peace-building.

Mr. Ganev said he anticipated Member States, during the general debate, to address the concepts and recommendations put forward by the Secretary-General in his "Agenda for Peace" report, with a view to adopting appropriate follow-up measures that would help establish new standards for efficient performance.

* * *

The Security Council last night voted to enlarge the mandate and strength of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to provide protection for convoys transporting humanitarian aid and released detainees.

By last night's resolution, which was adopted by a vote of 12 in favour to none against, with three abstentions (China, India and Zimbabwe), the Council approved the Secretary-General's proposal to expand UNPROFOR with four or five infantry battalion groups allowing the United Nations peace-keepers to provide armed escort for the humanitarian convoys of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The expansion of the Force is to be carried out at no cost to the United Nations, as a result of offers of support from a number of States.

The representatives of China, India and Zimbabwe said they fully supported the recommendations of the Secretary-General. However, they could not support operative paragraph 2 of the text, linking the expansion of the mandate to the implementation of resolution 770 (1992), which authorized the use of all necessary means to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told journalists at the Dag Hammarskjold Luncheon this afternoon that his first Annual Report on the Work of the Organization would be released tomorrow. In his report, he said he had reviewed the importance of the State as the fundamental entity of international relations. The United Nations Member States now numbered 179, which was a healthy development, he said, but cautioned that rapid change could put stress on the system.

Turning to the issue of regional associations between States, the Secretary-General said such associations could now play a greater role in dealing with problems in their regions, and a new partnership was possible between the World Organization and regional associations.

Discussing the importance of international law, the Secretary-General noted that more international law had come into being since the Second World War, though slowly and with many setbacks, than during the three previous

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United Nations

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DH/1227
16 September 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and Portugal invited by Secretary-General to hold informal consultations under his auspices on the question of East Timor.

+ Agenda of 144 items recommended for consideration by General Assembly's forty-seventh session; among new agenda items are withdrawal of foreign forces from Baltic States, United Nations/CSCE coordination, assistance to Afghanistan and to Croatia.

+ Italian Air Force plane that crashed on 3 September while taking part in United Nations humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo, was struck by at least one missile, says preliminary Italian Goverment report.

+ Small scientific team describes testing of two plants built at Muthanna to destroy Iraq's chemical weapons as "very successful"; destruction process to begin in two weeks.

+ 1993 World Conference on Human Rights intended to achieve new awakening on human rights questions, says its Secretary-General, Antoine Blanca, Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights.

+ Secretary-General and Ford Foundation announce formation of international advisory group on United Nations financing; group's first meeting held today at Ford Foundation in New York.

+ The United Nations to undertake the largest civilian helicopter airlift to bring Angolan voters to the polls.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has invited the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and Portugal to hold informal consultations under his auspices on the question of East Timor, when both Ministers are in New York for the General Assembly's forty-seventh session.

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In his progress report, dated 11 September, the Secretary-General wrote that he was confident that such a consultation could lead to a "mutually agreeable format for the substantive talks and set them on a solid and fruitful course". He said he was committed to contribute his utmost to the search for a comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the question of East Timor.

The Secretary-General noted in his report that the cancellation last November of a planned visit to East Timor by a delegation from the Portuguese Parliament was attributed to a difference between the parties over a particular journalist nominated by Portugal to accompany the delegation. Since then, he wrote, the dialogue that had been held through the Secretary-General's good offices since 1983, had been interrupted. Document A/47/435

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A new agenda item on the complete withdrawal of foreign military forces from the Baltic States was recommended this morning by the General Committee for consideration by the General Assembly's forty-seventh session.

The representative of Latvia, speaking also on behalf of Lithuania and Estonia, said that in spite of negotiations during the past year, foreign military forces remained on the territories of their countries. In an effort to implement a policy of preventive diplomacy, the United Nations should address the issue.

The Committee also recommended for consideration directly in plenary an agenda item on coordination of the activities of the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Two other new items would be allocated to the Second Committee (Economic and Financial): emergency international assistance for the reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan; and international cooperation and assistance to alleviate the consequences of war in Croatia and to facilitate its recovery. An item on consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean would be allocated to the First Committee (Political and Security).

The General Committee recommended that the Assembly include a total of 144 items in the agenda of its current session and defer the allocation of the item on the question of Cyprus until an appropriate time during the session. It was also recommended that the Assembly recess on 18 December and close the forty-seventh session on 20 September 1993.

The Committee endorsed the Secretary-General's suggestions that the general debate begin on Monday, 21 September, and end on Thursday, 8 October, and that the list of speakers be closed on Wednesday afternoon, 23 September. The provisional agenda, as well as the Committee's recommendations will go before the Assembly on Friday morning, 18 September.

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An Italian Air Force plane that crashed 3 September while participating in the United Nations humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo was struck by at least one missile, according to a preliminary report by the Italian Government made available to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) today. The airlift to Sarajevo, which began on 3 July, was suspended when the incident occurred. All four crew members aboard were killed.

A press release issued by the UNHCR today said the Italian report emphasized that the findings were only preliminary and that the investigation was continuing. The report noted that the mountainous terrain and lack of any evidence of radar emissions in the crash area tended to rule out the possibility that sophisticated radar-controlled or radar-based missile units were involved. It concluded that the missile must have been easily transportable.

The High Commissioner, Sadako Ogata, hoped to be able to recommend resumption of the airlift by the end of the week, the press release said.

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A small team of scientific experts, which inspected and tested two plants built to destroy Iraq's chemical weapons this week, has described the results as "very successful".

The three experts inspected and ran commissioning tests on the two plants, which were constructed at Muthanna by the Iraqi authorities after a design approved and supervised by the Special Commission set up under resolution 687 (1991), in connection with the disposal of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. While minor modifications have been recommended by the team, it is expected that the plant will be ready for full-scale operation in two weeks.

The destruction of Iraq's chemical weapons is expected to take 6 to 12 months.

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The 1993 World Conference on Human Rights was intended to achieve a new awakening on human rights questions and to perfect and make universal the existing human rights instruments, Antoine Blanca, Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, said in Geneva on Monday, 14 September.

In an opening address at the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, Mr. Blanca, who is the Secretary-General of the Conference, observed that promotion, protection and prevention were three essential elements in the context of human rights. He underscored the importance of non-governmental organizations and United Nations organs as key bodies for the promotion of human rights.

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The World Conference is being convened to assess the progress made in human rights since the adoption of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to identify obstacles to further progress in that area.

The representative of Austria announced that the World Conference would take place in Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993.

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The Secretary-General and the Ford Foundation have announced the formation of an international advisory group on United Nations financing. The first meeting of the group is held today at the Ford Foundation in New York.

In his 17 June report to the General Assembly entitled "An Agenda for Peace", the Secretary-General pointed to a growing financial crisis in the United Nations, and said the question of assuring financial security to the Organization over the long term was of such importance and complexity that public awareness and support must be heightened. He had therefore asked a "select group of qualified persons of high international repute" to assess current arrangements for funding United Nations operations and to recommend improvements. The Secretary-General intends to present their advice, together with his comments, for the consideration of the General Assembly.

The group will be co-chaired by Paul Volcker, former Chairman of the United States Federal Reserve, and Shijuro Ogata, retired Deputy Governor of the Japan Development Bank. The Ford Foundation will provide logistical, administrative and financial support to the group's work.

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To ensure that Angola's first national elections are both free and fair, the United Nations will undertake the most extensive civilian helicopter airlift of people in its history, to bring the country's 4.8 million registered voters from remote areas to polling stations. The elections -- for the presidential as well as the legislature -- are scheduled for 29 to 30 September.

To reach the one million Angolans living in areas inaccessible by road to voting stations, the United Nations must deploy 40 MI-8 twenty-passenger helicopters and nine fixed-wing aircraft. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will provide the logistics and technical support for the massive air operation, which will cost an estimated $10 million.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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17 September 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Establishment of $1 billion Peace Endowment Fund and levy to United Nations on arms sales and international air travel among new proposals put forward by Secretary-General in his first report to General Assembly on work of Organization.

+ Secretary-General urges that all political parties now pledge to respect results of Angola's first-ever elections scheduled for 29 and 30 September, as verified by United Nations Angola Verification Mission.

+ United Nations Interim Office to open in Yerevan, Armenia, on 24 October, following agreement signed today at Headquarters.

+ Government of Sudan reaffirms commitment to principles of Operation Lifeline Sudan; United Nations to appoint Special Emissary to follow-up on agreement to increase humanitarian effort, rehabilitation and development.

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The establishment of a Peace Endowment Fund of $1 billion to finance the initial cost of authorized peace-keeping operations, and a levy to the United Nations on arms sales and international air travel are among new proposals put forward by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in his report to the General Assembly on the work of the Organization -- his first as Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The proposals are presented in the face of the ever-deepening financial crisis of the United Nations -- now owed some $1.75 billion by Member States -- and to ensure that the Organization is fully prepared to respond to the new challenges of international action. The Secretary-General proposes that the Peace Endowment Fund be created by a combination of assessed and voluntary contributions from Governments, the private sector and individuals. The tax on arms sales, he writes, could be related to maintaining an arms register by the United Nations, and the tax on international air travel would be justified because air travel depends on the maintenance of peace.

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The report also contains new proposals to authorize the United Nations to borrow from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and to allow a general tax exemption for contributions made to the United Nations by foundations, businesses and individuals.

The report also draws renewed attention to proposals put forward by previous Secretary-General, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, that interests be charged on the amounts of assessed contributions by Member States that are not paid on time, and that the Secretary-General be allowed to borrow commercially, should other sources of cash be inadequate.

The urgent question of ensuring financial security to the Organization over the long term has prompted the Secretary-General to ask a select group of qualified persons of high international repute to examine the entire subject and to report to him.

In his report, the Secretary-General also reviews the United Nations peace-keeping activites around the world. With regard to the operation in former Yugoslavia, the Secretary-General calls for a wider international effort in solving the crisis in that region. However, he cautions, "it must be realized that the expections of the international community...continue to exceed the resources and capacity of the United Nations Protection Force" (UNPROFOR) operating there. The situation in Somalia, he writes, "poses a particularly difficult challenge" to the United Nations, which faces the problems of irregular forces and non-governmental groups complicating the deliveries of food to the 6 million affected Somalis.

In a chapter devoted to human rights and development, Mr. Boutros-Ghali proposes that he -- as Secretary-General -- together with human rights bodies, be empowered to bring massive human rights violations to the attention of the Security Council, together with recommendation for action. Preventing violations before they occur is of primary importance, he notes, and the United Nations must be made able to identify situations which could degenerate into violations and to take preventive measures.
Document A/47/1

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has urged that all political parties now pledge themselves to respect the results of Angola's first-ever elections scheduled for 29 and 30 September, as verified by the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II).

In his further report on that Mission, dated 9 September, the Secretary-General also pointed out that although the United Nations, the three observers -- Portugal, the Russian Federation and the United States -- and the donor countries had already played a key part in assisting implementation of the Peace Accords, there was still a need in the coming days to help further in the enormous task of deploying about 5,800 Angolan teams around the country to man the voting booths.

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Appealing to the Angolan leaders to make sure that they continue to honour their commitments under the Peace Accords, the Secretary-General recalled that the duty to overcome difficulties lay primarily with the Angolans themselves and with their leaders. It was also essential, he wrote, that the safety of United Nations personnel and properties be guaranteed.

The Secretary-General further reported that the first of the three phases of the electoral process -- the registration of voters -- had ended with "results surpassing expectations". Nevertheless, concerns were raised that not every eligible voter might have had the opportunity to register, particularly in areas of difficult access, despite repeated appeals by the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Angola, Margaret Anstee.

The Secretary-General recalled that UNAVEM's mandate during the electoral campaign -- the second step of the electoral process -- was to observe the elections in a totally impartial and objective manner, not to supervise or organize them.

The planning and execution of the third and crucial phase of the process -- the actual voting -- presented a formidable challenge to the national electoral authorities and to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) team providing assistance. The Secretary- General stressed that "adequate logistical planning and support" were as important as "political commitment on all sides to ensure free and fair elections" and that no significant failure on the logistical front should be used "either as an excuse for shortcomings or as a pretext to query the results".
Document S/24556

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A United Nations Interim Office is expected to open in Yerevan, Armenia, on 24 October, following an agreement signed today at Headquarters.

The action follows a decision last March by the Secretary-General to establish United Nations Interim Offices, with information and development components, in six countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States -- Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Uzbekhistan. Consequently, the first of the interim offices was opened in Minsk, the capital of Belarus, on 8 September.

In connection with the Secretary-General's decision and to enable the United Nations Interim Office to perform its functions in a full and effective manner, the Government of Armenia has agreed to ensure the availability of the necessary facilities, including the provision of office premises.

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The Government of Sudan has reaffirmed its commitment to the principles of Operation Lifeline Sudan as a landmark in humanitarian assistance, according to a joint statement issued by the Government and the United Nations yesterday.

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The statement was issued following a mission to the Sudan by Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Eliasson, from 13 to 16 September. During his visit, Mr. Eliasson met with President Omer Hassan Ahmed El Bashir, who emphasized his country's desire to attain self-sufficiency in food. The President urged, however, that more developmental assistance be forthcoming.

According to the statement, the Sudanese Government and the United Nations have agreed that effective mechanisms be devised to provide prompt humanitarian assistance, including increased use of food from national production. The Government requested that the United Nations coordinate all relief assistance to populations in conflict-affected areas and offered the use of corridors for the prompt delivery and distribution of such assistance. Agreement was also reached to facilitate the voluntary return of Sudanese refugees and the voluntary repatriation of refugees from the neighbouring countries to the Sudan.

The United Nations will appoint a Special Emissary to follow-up with the Government and to ensure that timely assistance is provided to all those in need throughout the country.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1229
18 September 1992

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ In Presidential statement, Security Council calls on Angolan parties to take "urgent and determined steps" to complete demobilization of remaining Government and UNITA troops and collection and centralized storage of weapons; expresses concern at recent deterioration of political and security situation.

+ Secretary-General to send fact-finding mission to Tajikistan at request from Government.

+ General Assembly President expresses hope that 47th session of the General Assembly will be "a major step towards revitalizing the United Nations; says he is satisfied with United Nations efforts in Yugoslav crisis.

+ General Assembly adopts 144-item agenda for its 47th session.

+ As many as 300,000 Mozambicans may seek asylum in neighbouring Malawi and Zimbabwe by the end of this year, according to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

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In a statement read out today by its President, Jose Ayala Lasso (Ecuador),the Security Council called on the Angolan parties to take "urgent and determined steps to complete the demobilization of the remaining Government and UNITA troops and the collection and centralized storage of weapons".

The Council's action came at a formal meeting today, following its consultations on a further report of the Secretary_General on the United Nations Verification Mission in Angola (UNAVEM II), in which he urged all the political parties to pledge themselves to respect the results of Angola's first-ever elections scheduled for 29 and 30 September.

In today's statement, Council members also expressed concern at the recent deterioration of the political and security situation in Angola and

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For information media—not an official record

called for the rapid completion of further essential measures, including the formation of the new National Angolan Armed Forces. At the same time, the Council also said it was essential that the police operate as a neutral, national force.

The Council praised the Angolans for their success in attaining the cease-fire and in registering the great majority of the population to vote and endorsed the Secretary-General's appeal to President dos Santos and Dr. Savimbi to ensure that their followers act with restraint and tolerance. The Council said it was encouraged by the reports of decisions reached by the two leaders during talks on 7 September and urged them, in particular, to implement their agreement in principle to the formation of a government of national reconciliation after the elections.

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United Nations Secretary-General's Spokesman yesterday announced that Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali had decided to send a United Nations fact-finding mission, now visiting Tashkent, to Dusanbe, Tajikistan.

The mission, sent at the request of the Government of Tajikistan, will be led by Raymond Sommereyns, Director, Department of Political Affairs.

* * *

General Assembly President, Stoyan Ganev (Bulgaria), said today that there was every reason to hope that the 47th session of the General Assembly would prove to be a major step towards revitalizing the United Nations as "an effective, and user-friendly international mechanism of peace-making, peace-keeping and peace-building".

At his first press conference at headquarters today, Mr. Ganev said, regarding Yugoslavia, that he was satisfied with the Organization's handling of the crisis, but stressed that its efforts must be more "effective, more active and more concrete" to resolve the "terrible situation in the Balkans". The mechanism for a successful outcome to the Yugoslav question was created at the London Conference on Yugoslavia, and is presently discussed at the Geneva Conference, he said. He also pointed out that the United Nations could "reach success" not only on the basis of action of the Security Council, but also by including efforts by the General Assembly.

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The General Assembly this morning adopted a 144-item agenda for its forty-seventh session, including a new item on the complete withdrawal of foreign military forces from the territories of the Baltic States. By doing so, the Assembly followed the recommendation of its General Committee which had submitted such an agenda for the Assembly's consideration last Wednesday.

The 144-item agenda, along with items on the coordination of the activities of the United Nations and the Conference on Security and

Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and on the observer status in the General Assembly for the International Organization for Migration, will be considered directly in plenary. Another new item, concerning international cooperation and assistance to alleviate the consequences of war in Croatia and to facilitate its recovery, was allocated to the Second Committee (Economic and Financial).

As in previous years, the question of Cyprus will be allocated at an appropriate time during the session. The Assembly also decided to defer until its next regular session the items regarding the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India, as well as the question of East Timor.

When the Assembly meets again, on Monday, 21 September, it will begin its general debate, scheduled to conclude on 8 October. The Foreign Minister of Brazil is expected to open the general debate, followed by the Presidents of the United States and Nicaragua, and the Foreign Minister of Austria.

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As many as 300,000 Mozambicans may seek asylum in neighbouring Malawi and Zimbabwe by the end of this year, if immediate action is not taken to stem the exodus, according to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). More than 1.5 million Mozambican refugees have already fled the fighting, famine and drought in their homeland over the past decade, to five southern African nations.

In a press communiqué, the UNHCR stressed that most of the refugees arrived at the already overcrowded camps in Malawi and Zimbabwe, in appalling condition, suffering from diseases such as cholera, measles, pellagra, dysentery and scabies. Mortality rates in the camps run quite high, and hospitals are overcrowded, the Agency reported. In addition, there is a shortage of food and water supply in all the camps.

The flux of refugees has also created some tension locally. In Malawi, for instance, where 69 per cent of the local population depends already on international food aid, the arrival of refugees was expected to fuel anti-refugee feelings. In order to ease the tension, UNHCR has distributed 45,000 metric tons of food from its own stock to the local population.

The communiqué also indicates that UNHCR will need $40 million by the end of the year to care for 300,000 new arrivals in Malawi and Zimbabwe, but concludes that only a political solution enabling food and water to reach needy Mozambicans inside their country could stem the refugee exodus.

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21 September 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Forty-seventh session of General Assembly begins general debate; hears addresses by Presidents of United States, Nicaragua, Colombia, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Prime Minister of Norway; and Foreign Ministers of Morocco, Brazil, Austria, Seychelles, Iran and Finland.

+ Security Council contends Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) can not automatically hold United Nations membership of former Socialist Republic; recommends that General Assembly deny Federal Republic participation in its work and that it require application for membership.

+ Humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo resumes today as agreement between three parties in Bosnian conflict is reached on ensuring security of humanitarian operations throughout region.

+ UNDP helicopter carrying six crew members on their way to Luanda crashes in Angola; three people hospitalized in Windhoek.

+ Extraordinary session of European Community's General Affairs Council, held at Headquarters today, welcomes positive result of French referendum endorsing Maastricht Treaty on European Union.

+ United Nations official says credentials from "so-called" Haitian Government in Port au Prince to attend forty-seventh session of General Assembly are of "no legal consequence to United Nations"

+ General Conference of International Atomic Energy Agency begins annual session.

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Opening the general debate of the General Assembly's 47th session this morning, Brazil's Minister of Foreign Affairs Celso Lafer, stressed the Organization's role in ushering a new international era of cooperation and praised the Secretary General's "provocative and creative" Agenda for Peace proposals.

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The Brazilian Foreign Minister told the Assembly that the United Nations and the General Assembly should serve "as a natural point of convergence for the tendencies that shape the complexities of our time". Such complexities, he said, required building a new international order, based on the democratic participation of all States.

Referring to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) which his country hosted last June, Mr. Lafer urged the Assembly to adopt "the spirit of Rio" and called on the Assembly to address the task of implementing the conclusions and honouring the commitments taken at the Rio Conference. He urged the developed countries to announce their plans in support of the goals of the Conference, citing the availability of technology to developing countries as one crucial goal, as well as follow-up measures including the development of small island States and the convening of a negotiating committee on desertification.

The Brazilian Foreign Minister welcomed the decision to establish a Commission on Sustainable Development and announced his country's offer to host a centre for the study of sustainable development.

Welcoming Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's "An Agenda for Peace" report and calling upon all Assembly members to take steps to advance that agenda, United States President George Bush proposed in his address that a special meeting of the Security Council be held to discuss specific proposals in the Secretary-General's report.

Mr. Bush suggested that such a meeting develop concrete responses to the report in a number of key areas, including training on a national level of military units for possible peace-keeping operations and humanitarian relief; coordinated training of multi-national units to serve in such operations linked with regional organizations; adequate logistical support for peace-keeping and humanitarian operations; planning, crisis management and intelligence capabilities for such operations; and adequate, equitable financing for United Nations and associated peace-keeping efforts.

President Bush said that as much as the Organization had done with regard to peace-keeping, the United Nations could "do much more". He stressed the need for the regional organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), among others, to develop peace-keeping capabilities. Enhanced United Nations capabilities, however, were a "necessary complement" to these regional efforts across the globe, Mr. Bush noted.

The United States President told the Assembly that he had directed the United States Secretary of Defence to place a new emphasis on peace-keeping, and the United States would enhance training of combat, engineering and logistical units for peace-keeping and humanitarian activities. He had also directed the establishment of a permanent peace-keeping curriculum in U.S. military schools, proposed to make available American bases and facilities for multinational training and field exercices.

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President Bush further urged the Security Council to become a "key forum" for non-proliferation enforcement, reassuring the non-nuclear States that it will seek immediate action to provide assistance, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, to any State party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty that is a victim of an act of aggression involving nuclear weapons.

He announced his intention to work with the United States Congress towards redirecting the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency's focus on providing technical support for nonproliferation, weapons monitoring and destruction, and global defense conversion.

Stressing a new approach to foreign aid, President Bush announced his intention to propose a top-to-bottom overhaul of the American institutions that plan and administer foreign assistance, and expressed his support for a significant increase in the programs of the Export-Import Bank to ensure that United States products and technology promote investment in worldwide economic growth. President Bush also announced that, using existing foreign affairs resources, he will propose the establishment of a $1-billion growth fund to provide grants and credits to support domestic businesses "in providing expertise, goods and services" needed in countries undertaking economic restructuring.

In her address to the Assembly, the President of Nicaragua, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, called attention to "major contradictions which had arisen in the world order", including the expectation that improvement in the relations between the East and West would bring a peace dividend. That, she said, had not yet been realized. She stressed the urgency to forge a worldwide consensus and commitment to strengthen international cooperation and reactivate economic growth and development.

The restructuring of the United Nations in the economic and social fields was of major importance to Nicaragua, she said, adding that her country welcomed the Secretary-General's action to improve coordination within the primary components of the United Nations system.

Turning to the challenges faced by her Government, the Nicaraguan President called for the economic support of the international community, citing this year's "terrible natural disasters" such as the Cerro Negro volcano eruption and the recent tidal wave.

Mr. Chamorro also told the Assembly that the chances of ensuring stability and promoting reconciliation and economic growth in Nicaragua were greater today than two and a half years ago. She pointed to her country's success in establishing peace and building democracy after many years of civil war-- disarming 24,000 members of the resistance; reducing the army from 96,000 to 17,000 men; establishing disarmament brigades for the entire country and collecting weapons which were in the hands of civilians.

The Foreign Minister of Austria, Alois Mock, told the Assembly that his country was fully committed to supporting Secretary-General's recommendations contained in his "An Agenda for Peace" report. The peace-keeping operations

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should imply more than a mere observation of cease-fire situations. They should play a major role in the prevention of conflicts, he said.

Speaking about the present conflict in the former Yugoslavia, Mr. Mock recalled the regional and international initiatives taken by the world community to try and bring a peaceful end to the ethnic confrontations in the region. What was needed, he said, was to keep serious pressure on the aggressor to desist from his acts of violation of international law, in particular humanitarian law and the Convention on Genocide.

Mr. Mock also denounced the "horrible effects" of ethnic cleansing and stressed that the international community will have to do more than care for refugees and displaced persons. "Our goal is for them to be able to return to their homes and to regain their belongings", he said.

Mr. Mock also informed the General Assembly that the long-standing controversy between his country and Italy concerning the protection of the Austrian population in South-Tyrol had been recently settled between the two Governments by the signing of an agreement on a package containing a number of measures benefitting the populations from that area.

The Austrian Foreign Minister further expressed the satisfaction of his Government at hosting the World Conference on Human Rights scheduled to convene in Vienna next June. The convenning of such an important event, he noted, highlighted his country's dedication to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In his address to the Assembly, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Morocco, Abdellatif Filali, welcomed the new approach to the Middle East problem "amid positive and hopeful signs". The fact that the Arab-Israeli dialogue had started in Madrid last year was in itself a positive and constructive step in the peace process and Morocco was hopeful that the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and of the principle of exchanging land for peace could lead to a just and lasting solution in the area.

Speaking about the question of Western Sahara, Mr. Filali underlined that the problem had entered its final stage following the adoption by the United Nations of a peace plan in 1988 and the establishment of the cease-fire in September 1991. Despite the numerous delays which had interfered with the holding of the Referendum -- delays that Morocco deplored -- Mr. Filali reiterated his country's commitment to remain "firmly loyal" to the settlement plan for the region. The Moroccan Government extended its full cooperation to the establishment of the mechanisms envisaged and the implementation of the agreed rules with a view to organizing the Referendum as soon as possible, he concluded.

Opening this afternoon meeting, the President of Colombia, Cesar Gaviria Trujillo stressed that his country was a victim of the uncontrolable appetite for drugs throughout the world. Drug trafficking, however, was an international crime that threatened mankind in every corner of the planet, he

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said. President Gaviria pointed out that over the past two years much progress had been accomplished in the struggle against drug trafficking and drug dealing. All this progress, although real, was not enough, he added.

He called for the strengthening of international cooperation in the struggle against drug trafficking, "this ennemy of humanity", and appealed to the United Nations to establish global, regional and national levels for drug-controlling. The international community must commit itself to reduce the supply and demand of drugs at least by 50 per cent by the year 2000, by 70 per cent by the year 2005 and to free the humanity of this scourge by the year 2010.

President Gaviria also called for the improvement of the available instruments of judicial cooperation among nations. He suggested the creation of a United Nations Convention for judicial cooperation in the struggle against drugs which would facilitate the flow and exchange of evidence and reduce the bureaucratic stands and legal obstacles in the coordination of legal action between these countries.

Acknowledging the efforts of the United Nations to achieve peace and provide humanitarian assistance under very difficult circumstances, the President of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Alija Izetbegovic, reminded the Assembly that his country was besieged by "barbaric aggression" and called on the Organization to "implement and enforce fully" the Security Council resolutions and the principles and commitments of the London Conference.

The Bosnian President pointed out that while his country had abiden by the "Confidence, Security Building and Verification" agreement of the London Conference, the aggressors had not. He accused the Belgrade Government and its "proxies" in Bosnia and Herzegovina of a "record of broken promises", saying such action had shown that implementation and enforcement must become the next step towards peace. He called for the immediate implementation of a no-fly zone over his country and asked the Assembly to set in motion an international war crimes tribunal to investigate and punish those responsible for war crimes. He also urged the international community to lift the arms embargo which he said had deprived Bosnia and Herzegovina of its only effective means of self defense and by doing so had helped its aggressor.

The Bosnian President outlined details of his proposal for a constitutional commission which would work with a group of international experts to develop a constitutional settlement to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He said he envisioned a Republic consisting of administrative-territorial regions formed according to economic, cultural and ethnic criteria and stressed his belief that "it was impractical and immoral" to institute such regions on an exclusively ethnic basis.

In her statement to the Assembly, Ms. Danielle de St.Jorre, Minister of Environment, Planning and External Relations of the Seychelles, stressed that while 15 per cent of the world population living in the rich countries controled over 80 per cent of the world income, over three billion people had only 5 per cent of that total amount available to them.

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She called on the developed nations to increase their economic and technical assistance to the poor countries. While solidarity between nations should be strengthened and developing countries assisted, she said, each country should do its utmost for its own development. She called on the industrialized world to provide increased technical aid, expertise and technological assistance - with no limitation or exception - to the needy nations.

"Burden-sharing" was essential with regard to United Nations peace-keeping efforts, Gro Harlem Brundtland, the Prime Minister of Norway told the Assembly today. She stressed that every country had a duty to participate, including those which had refrained from getting involved so far.

She recalled that some 35,000 Norwegian men and women had participated in a total of 16 United Nations peace-keeping operations and said that her country was prepared to intensify its efforts in this field. In connection with the need to move beyond traditional peace-keeping into such fields as refugee repatriation, electoral assistance or human rights monitoring, she recalled Norway's proposal to establish a special United Nations institute for education and training in peace-keeping and related activities.

The Norwegian Prime Minister said it was "a sad paradox" that development aid flows continued to stagnate and remained at less than half of the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP). Norway's official development aid, however, which had exceeded 1 per cent of its GDP for more than 10 years, reflected its strong commitment to the fight against poverty, she said.

The Foreign Minister of Iran, Ali-Akbar Velayati, expressed satisfaction at the victory of the Muslim Mujaheedin of Afghanistan and drew attention of the international community to the pressing humanitarian needs of the war-stricken Afghan people. With regard to Nagorno-Karabakh, he said the crisis in that region could only be resolved through negotiations and on the basis of mutual respect and non-interference as well as preservation of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

The Iranian Foreign Minister further stated that his Government was fully prepared to actively participate in any constructive and comprehensive initiative in the field of the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East.

Speaking about the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Foreign Minister Velayati emphasized the inherent right of that Republic to self-defense and urged the Security Council to reconsider its resolutions on arms embargo against Yugoslavia.

He went on to say that the decision of the recent Non-Aligned Summit in Jakarta to convene a high-level working group to study ways and means of increasing the effectiveness of the United Nations represented a "timely,

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logical and positive step" He proposed that the General Assembly guide other organs of the United Nations on a constant and active basis in order to increase the effectiveness of the Organization.

Speaking on the proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction to the Assembly today, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Paavo Vayrynen, called for the strengthening of international norms of non-proliferation and welcomed the recently concluded Chemical Weapons Convention, saying it was a vital and long-awaited part of the non-proliferation regime. He also asserted that his country would be among the first States to sign and ratify the Convention.

Mr. Vayrynen said the unrestrained proliferation of conventional arms could lead to regional instability and called on the major arms-exporting countries exercise restraint and to report fully all relevant transfers to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.

With today's unprecedented demands on the United Nations, and the many new challenges to be met and financed -- including recently expanded peace-keeping operations--there was an acute need for funds, he said. He expressed concern about the Organization's ability to function in the present financial crisis and said his country "was particularly anxious" to see the General Assembly take the first step towards the establishment of a peace-keeping reserve fund to meet the initial expenses of peace-keeping operations pending assessed contributions, as recommended by the Secretary-General and long-advocated by the Nordic countries.

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The Security Council has recommended that the General Assembly decide that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) shall not participate in the work of the Assembly and should apply for membership to the United Nations. It considered that the Federal Republic could not automatically continue the membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the Organization.

The Council took that action at a formal meeting on Saturday, 19 September, by a vote of 12 in favour to none against, with 3 abstentions (China, India and Zimbabwe).

Speaking in explanation of vote, the representative of Zimbabwe said that the Charter did not stipulate resolving matters of succession as a precondition for membership, and that the Charter's provisions were consistently ignored or selectively applied by the Council. The representative of India said the Assembly was under no legal obligation to act on any recommendation of the Council, just as the Council had no obligation to act on the recommendations of the Assembly. The resclution was flawed since it did not conform to the provisions of the Charter that dealt with the membership, he noted.

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The representative of China said that the resolution did not mean that the Federal Republic would no longer participate in the activities of the United Nations. This was only a transitional arrangement and affected only its participation in the work of the General Assembly.

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The leaders of the three parties in the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina signed agreements in Geneva on 19 September assuring the United Nations High Commissioner (UNHCR) of the security of humanitarian operations throughout the region, the UNHCR has said. The Yugoslav parties thus reaffirmed the commitments made at the recent International Conference on the former Yugoslavia in London.

In a press communiqué issued over the weekend, the UNHCR said that upon receipt of those assurances, which cover both land and air operations by UNHCR and its partners, the High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, recommended to participating Governments the immediate resumption of the humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo. The airlifts, coordinated by UNCHR and the United Nations Protection Forces in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR), were suspended on 3 September after the downing of an Italian cargo plane on its approach to Sarajevo.

The Secretary-General's Spokesman said today that the first UNPROFOR flight since the suspension of the humanitarian operations landed this morning in Sarajevo, where the conditions were reported as "calm".

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The electoral technical assistance programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Angola lost a second helicopter in a week when it crashed on Saturday, 19 September, after take-off for a town located in the north.

According to a statement issued on Saturday by the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II), six people -- four Russian crew members, one American electoral observer from UNAVEM II and one Angolan UNDP staff member -- were on board the helicopter when it crashed from an altitude of 600 feet, but there were no fatalities. The three most seriously injured victims were taken to a hospital in Windhoek, Namibia. The others were being treated in a hospital in Luanda.

Nine people had been injured in a similar accident on 14 September .

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Following an extraordinary session of the European Community's General Affairs Council at Headquarters today, the Foreign Minister of the United Kingdom, Douglas Hurd, announced at a press conference that the Council of the 12-member European Community warmly welcomed the positive result of the French referendum held Sunday endorsing the Maastricht Treaty on the European Union.

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The British Foreign Minister said the Council also welcomed the decision to convene an early, special European Council summit meeting on 5 October to discuss two topics: turbulence in the monetary markets, and preoccupations arising from anxiety that the European Community had drifted out of touch with its own citizens. Mr. Hurd stressed the flexibility of the Treaty, which will go into effect either on 1 January or on the first day of the month following the last ratificaton. Great Britain, he said, would debate the Treaty through its parliamentary procedures.

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Communications received "from the so-called Haitian Government in Port-au-Prince included purported credentials for a delegation to the 47th session of the General Assembly", according to a statement issued by a United Nations Spokesman today.

The statement cited a General Assembly resolution adopted on 11 October 1991, by which the Assembly affirmed as "unacceptable any entity resulting from the attempted illegal replacement of the constitutional President of Haiti" and demanded the immediate restoration of the legitimate Government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. According to the statement, the purported credentials from the "so-called" Government of Haiti in Port-au-Prince "are not receivable from the legal point of view and are of no legal consequence to the United Nations".

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High-level governmental representatives, including 17 ministers from 90 member States of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), are meeting in Vienna this week for the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Conference. The Conference is scheduled to last through 25 September.

Among the items that the delegates are expected to approve are the Agency's 1993 regular budget, which calls for total expenditure of $191 million. The Conference will also consider a number of items relating to measures to strengthen international cooperation in the field of nuclear safety and radiological protection; the application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East; Israeli nuclear capabilities and threat; Iraq's non-compliance with its safeguard obligations; South Africa's nuclear capabilities; and strengthening of the safeguards system.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ General Assembly continues general debate hearing addresses by Presidents of Djibouti, Republic of Korea, Croatia, Cyprus; statements by United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs; Foreign Ministers of Russian Federation, Netherlands, Pakistan; and Deputy Prime Minister of Japan; General Assembly to vote on question of membership of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

+ Plan to ensure protection of humanitarian aid convoys in Bosnia-Herzegovina discussed by joint UNPROFOR/UNHCR planning team; Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance hold talks with Greek Prime Minister on that country's special responsibility as neighbouring State to former Yugoslavia.

+ Douglas Hurd, British Foreign Secretary and President of European Community Council of Ministers, says there is clear need for Security Council Summit to discuss proposals concerning increased demand for peace-keeping operations.

+ President of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Alija Izetbegovic, tells a press conference that he will press co-hosts of London Conference on former Yugoslavia to ensure that agreements reached at the Conference are implemented.

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Opening the debate in the General Assembly this morning, the President of Djibouti, El Hadj Hassan Gouled Aptidon, called attention to the horror of Somalia asking how a whole nation could "condemn itself to self-destruction". The world had come to realize belatedly the full extent of the tragedy in Somalia, the Djiboutian President said, and predicted that there would be hundreds of thousands more Somali victims.

Blaming the crisis on "oppressive, tyrannical warlords", he said the tragedy in Somalia was not inevitable. The Somali people had been plunged into brutal barbarism "out of sheer greed" and a "blind obsession with power", he said, adding that the question today was not how to save lives through the

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delivery of food to stave off starvation, not even how to stop the senseless fighting. Rather, he said, "in a scenario like Somalia", it is what the United Nations, together with the international community can devise collectively to reorganize the new nation of Somalia.

Concluding, he said Djibouti was confidently awaiting the day when all peoples of the Horn of Africa would have overcome the spectre of famine and poverty within a secure and peaceful environment.

In his address this morning, the President of the Republic of Korea, Roh Tae Woo, said the normalization of diplomatic relations between his country and China, along with his official visit to Beijing next week was expected to contribute toward reduced tensions in the Korean Peninsula and to peace-making efforts in Northeast Asia.

Turning to the dialogue between the two Koreas, Mr. Tae Woo said that thus far, eight rounds of meetings had been held alternately in Seoul and Pyongyang, where a number of pending issues had been discussed. Among those was North Korea's suspected nuclear development programme, which, he said, was casting "dark clouds" over the future of the Korean Peninsula. As a United Nations member, he said, North Korea was responsible for removing all suspicions about its nuclear development programme in order to be fully accepted by the community of nations.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Douglas Hurd, in his statement to the Assembly, recalled the common efforts being deployed by the United Nations and the European Community -- the United Nations leading on peace-keeping and the European Community on peace-making -- to bring peace, justice and relief to the suffering of the victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was a difficult undertaking, he said, requiring deep understanding of the problems, the complete respect and cooperation of the parties concerned and the "unstinging support" of, and if necessary pressure from, the international community.

Mr. Hurd also stressed the positive role presently played by the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia -- now working in Geneva under the co-chairmanship of Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen -- which, he said, was powered by the determination of the international community to bring an end to the violence in the former Yugoslavia.

The best way of avoiding to place too heavy a burden of intervention on the United Nations in different regional conflicts around the world, the British Minister went on, was to prevent those conflicts from breaking out. That could only be accomplished through diplomacy. To give diplomacy a chance, he noted, the key international institutions, such as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), needed to be strong. Preventive diplomacy was quicker, more helpful to peoples about to be embroiled in conflict than even the most successful peace-keeping or peace-making operation which follows the outbreak of violence. It was also less costly, in terms of lives and cash, Mr. Hurd said. The European Community would follow up on the

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idea of preventive deployment of troops in the event of an internal crisis, "where the government requests help, with humanitarian assistance or conciliation". He announced that the European Community had already decided in principle to send civilian monitoring missions to States that have requested them.

Addressing the financial aspect of the peace-keeping operations, Mr. Hurt noted that the twelve member States of the European Community had given some 40 per cent of total contributions actually collected so far for the various new operations launched or expanded since the end of the last General Assembly. In the case of Bosnia, he said, the EC member States would bear all their own costs.

Pledging that his country's President, Government, the majority of the Parliament and the whole country would not abandon the path of reforms "no matter how difficult it may prove", the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Andrei V. Kozyrev, told the Assembly that Russia had learned from its own experience that there would be no alternative to democratic development.

Mr. Kozyrev expressed his country's support to the Secretary-General's "An Agenda for Peace" report and the proposals made in the Assembly yesterday by United States President George Bush, and emphasized the need to extinguish armed conflicts. Russia would bolster its efforts aimed at eliminating the conflicts on the territory of the former Soviet Union, "bearing in mind special interests and responsibility of Russia in establishing civilized principles of the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in that part of the world". Together with the CSCE, Russia would seek to end the war in favour of peace in Nagorno-Karabakh, to secure integrity of of Tadjikistan and natinoal reconciliation in that country, in cooperation with the United Nations.

The Russian Foreign Minister added that the fate of former Soviet service men -- prisoners of war in Afghanistan -- remained one of the most acute humanitarian problems. He called on the General Assembly to pronounce its support for an urgent resolution of the problem.

With the end of the Cold War, regional conflicts had proliferated "with a vehemence which none had foreseen", but, at the same time, the possibility to do something about them had increased, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Hans van den Broek, told the General Assembly. The United Nations was the right organization to deal with these emergencies and must possess all the means necessary for a flexible response ranging from preventive diplomacy to repressive action, he said.

Turning to the question of human rights, Mr. Van den Broek said that despite some encouraging developments all over the world, human rights were still being violated in numerous countries. He cited massive violations in the former Yugoslavia, where "nationalism and irredentism had gone wild and threatened neighbouring States as well". He indicated that his country favoured the establishment of machinery for the systematic gathering of data

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concerning criminal acts with regard to the Geneva Conventions and the Human Rights Conventions, calling on the Assembly to consider the establishment of an International Criminal Court.

In his address to the General Assembly this afternoon, the President of Croatia, Franjo Tudjman, voiced his country's "criticism" of the "inadequately efficient action of international factors in the solution of the crisis" in the former Yugoslavia, "more precisely in the prevention of the brutal aggression waged by Serbia and Montenegro against Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina".

The Croatian President warned that unless stopped, the aggression may spread into a conflict of a much broader scale. The implementation of the Vance plan, created with the authority of the Security Council, was also falling behind schedule because of constant Serbian and Montenegrin "sabotage".

President Tudjman urged that the operation of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) be speeded up and fully implemented within its mandate. Otherwise, he said, it would become meaningless and produce the justified indignation and frustration of the Croatian people who continue to suffer the consequences of aggression. He called on the United Nations to "summon all the will and the power" to bring the war in Croatia to a close and stop aggression against Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The example of Cyprus was sufficient evidence that an intense effort of peace-making must be pursued in parallel with every peace-keeping operation, the President of Cyprus, George Vassiliou, told the General Assembly. Despite the lack of results "because of the negative attitude of the Turkish side", Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had correctly seized the moment and pursued an intense renewed effort toward this end, he said.

The President of Cyprus went on to say that the Secretary-General's "An Agenda for Peace" report clearly indicated why progress had not been made during the recent talks held in July and August in New York between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot sides. He reiterated the determination of his Government to participate in the resumption of the talks on 26 October, and expressed the hope that the Turkish side, "despite its so far negative public statements", would cooperate as well.

Speaking about the risks entailed by the intense arms race between regional powers, President Vassiliou called for the establishment of an institutional framework that would enhance the feeling of security, diminishing the need of self-help in case of aggression to a maximum. He recalled that Cyprus had repeatedly proposed the demilitarization of the island together with the withdrawal of the Turkish forces from Cyprus, as a means for the resources thus saved to be used for development purposes.

In his statement to the General Assembly, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, Muhammad Siddique Khan Kanju, recalled that Pakistan and India had concluded agreements not to attack each other's nuclear facilities, as well as on prior notification of military exercises and

prevention of air violations. They had also recently signed a Declaration on the total prohibition of chemical weapons, he said. India remains however non-responsive to the proposals aimed at ensuring nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia and bringing about mutual and balanced reduction of conventional forces, he noted.

Speaking about the question of self-determination for Kashmir, the Pakistani Foreign Minister expressed concern that Security Council resolutions had remained unimplemented. He recalled that Pakistan had proposed a bilateral dialogue with India to reach a final settlement of the Kashmir dispute and he called upon the international community and the Secretary-General to pursuade India to cease its policy of suppression.

With regard to Afghanistan, Pakistan was ready to make its contribution to the gigantic task of rebuilding this war-ravaged nation's economy. Mr. Kanju also urged the international community to help contribute to the recontruction of Afghanistan and the rehabilitation of the returning refugees.

In his statement to the Assembly, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Japan, Michio Watanabe, noted that building a peaceful world would require a five-pronged approach. Among action to be taken, he said, efforts had to be stepped up to forestall the outbreak of conflicts. Expressing support for the Secretary-General's "An Agenda for Peace" report, he noted however that the idea of "preventive deployment" of United Nations peace-keeping operations with the consent of only one party to a conflict, involved problems that required further study.

In the field of the peaceful resolution of conflicts, Mr. Watanabe indicated that his country continued to step up its diplomatic efforts to build peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. In the Cambodian conflict, he said, Japan would continue its "intensive and unremitting effort" to urge the Khmer Rouge to work with the other parties and with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to advance the peace process quickly.

Mr. Watanabe further recalled that last June the Japanese Diet had passed the International Peace Cooperation Law, which "put in place domestic arrangements that finally enable Japan to participate in United Nations peace-keeping operations and international humanitarian relief operations".

Turning to economic issues, Mr. Watanabe announced that under its stated goal of expanding its environment-related official development assistance (ODA) to about $7.7 billion over the next five years, Japan would strive to identify, formulate and implement the best projects through policy dialogue with developing cuntries.

Concluding, the Japanese Minister told the Assembly that it was necessary to consider seriously just how the United Nations could be restructured, including considerations of the functions, composition and other aspects of the Security Council.

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Yesterday, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Argentina, Guido di Tella, told the Assembly that while the general view of contemporary international relations gave rise to a sense of hope worldwide, some regional conflicts which persisted could not be ignored. Argentina continued to support the decisions of the Security Council because of its profound belief in regulating the norms for civilized conduct of nations. In addition, regional development was another principle highly valued by Argentina, which had actively promoted reforms in the charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) to better enable it to respond to the region's needs.

Mr. Tella went on to underline the normalization of diplomatic relations between the United Kingdom and Argentina. He said, however, that the dispute over the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands, Georgias and South Sandwich Islands persisted. He reaffirmed the sovereign right of Argentina over those territories, and, in that context, rejected the recent "unilateral" decision by the United Kingdom Government to prospect for hydrocarbons in the disputed area. That act could introduce difficulties into the good bilateral relationship of cooperation in the South Atlantic.

The Vice Minister of External Relations of Angola, Domingos Manuel Nginga, said that the armed conflict that had ravaged his country since 1975 had ended with the signing of the Bicesse Accords. Now, he said, the Angolan people were preparing with great anticipation the holding of the first general and multiparty elections scheduled for 29 and 30 September.

Mr. Nginga also expressed his Governement's concern at the incidents that are taking place in almost all parts of the country and hoped that, before the elections, definitive accords could be reached regarding the "extinction" of the present Government's armed forces and the military wing of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

He called for the cessation of the wave of violence and intimidation provoked, in his opinion. by the partner of the Government to the Bicesse Accords and for the formation of a national army.

The Foreign Minister of Zimbabwe, Nathan Shamuyarira, told the Assembly yesterday that regional cooperation during the severe drought now afflicting Southern Africa would be greatly increased if the apartheid system in South Africa were brought to an end and a non-racial and democratic system established in its place. Mr. Shamuyarira also called for an increase in the number of observers to South Africa, saying that to adequately deal with violence in the country much more than the current 50 monitors should be dispatched to cover all potential flashpoints.

Commenting on other African trouble spots such as Angola, Mozambique and Somalia, the Zimbabwean Foreign Minister praised the United Nations for its steadfast support of the Angolan peace process, particularly through the deployment of United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM 11). With regard to Mozambique, he said his country would do all in its power to promote

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peace there, and he commended the decisive steps taken by the Security Council on Somalia, especially its decision to dispatch 3,500 troops to protect food shipments and distribution there.

The General Assembly was expected to hold a night meeting at which it would take up agenda item 8 on the question of the membership of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. A draft resolution will be introduced, after which a number of delegations, including the United Kingdom, the United States, Austria and Yugoslavia will address the Assembly.

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A plan to implement the Security Council's resolution providing for protection of humanitarian aid convoys in Bosnia-Herzegovina has been discussed by a joint planning team, consisting of representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). The team also included representatives of countries that plan to contribute troops to UNPROFOR.

According to the United Nations office in Zagreb, the discussions were held in the mission area from 17 to 19 September when the draft plan was finally formulated and presented to UNPROFOR Force Commander Satish Nambiar. Consultations with some Governments involved would follow and advance teams would be sent to the proposed areas of deployment to determine the needs of the mission.

Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, Co-chairmen of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia, held in London last month, were scheduled to go to Greece today to meet with Prime Minister Mitsotakis for a discussion of the special responsibility of Greece as a neighbouring State of the former Yugoslavia.

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Responding to questions from the press following his statement to the General Assembly this morning, Douglas Hurd, the British Foreign Secretary and President of the European Community Council of Ministers, again emphasized that "the peace-keeping machinery and resources of the United Nations are stretched". He affirmed that there was a clear need for a Security Council Summit to discuss proposals by the Secretary General concerning the increased demand for such operations and ratify the conclusions reached.

At the start of last year, Mr. Hurd pointed out, there were 11,500 United Nations peace-keeping personnel and now, 10 months later, there were 51,000. Asked about his country's willingness to make its forces available for special multi-national training exercises and provide combat-ready troops for peace enforcement, Mr. Hurd said that, as it had been demonstrated in the Persian Gulf, his country was "perfectly ready to take part". He said, however, that the next step was military talks between representatives of the British Ministry of Defense and the United Nations on this question.

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Citing the situation in Mogadishu, Mr. Hurd told the press that, as the United Nations was increasingly propelled into a role of intervention and partial administration - involving both military and policing elements and a range of public services - "the moral was to invest more ingenuity and will" into preventive diplomacy before countries reach the stage of collapse where military intervention or administration from outside became inevitable.

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The President of Bosnia Herzegovina, Alija Izetbegovic, told correspondents at a press conference at Headquarters this afternoon that he was going to press the co-hosts of the London Conference on the former Yugoslavia, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and British Prime Minister John Major, to ensure that agreements reached at that Conference were implemented.

He noted that in the 26 days since the end of the London Conference, nearly 2,000 citizens of his country had died in increased fighting. The possibility of the establishment of a "no-fly zone" over Bosnia and Herzegovina was one of the reasons his Governnment had decided, after some hesitation, to work with the London Conference and accept its decisions.

The Bosnian President also called for the establishment of an international war crimes tribunal, noting that article 51 of the United Nations Charter gave the right of collective defense and of self-defense to a country under attack. He said the international community could "deprive us of one of these rights, but not of both".

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1232
23 September 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ General Assembly decides that Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) should apply for membership and not participate in its work.

+ Debate in General Assembly continues with addresses by Presidents of Armenia, El Salvador, Head of State of Sierra Leone and Head of Government and Foreign Minister of Liechtenstein; statements by Foreign Ministers of France, China, Germany, Belarus, Mexico; Assembly last night heard statements by Poland, Sweden, Chile, Portugal and Gabon.

+ Angela King, Chief of the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa arrives in Johannesburg to assume her duties as head of 50-member team which will coordinate peace efforts in that country.

+ Bosnian President and Croatian President to jointly request abrogation of arms embargo imposed by Security Council.

+ Troop-contributing countries to United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus say they are unable to delay planned reductions of contingents to allow for conclusion of next round of political talks.

+ Preparatory Committee for 1993 World Conference on Human Rights concludes third session in Geneva without agreement on draft provisional agenda for Conference.

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The General Assembly has decided that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) cannot continue automatically the membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations. By a vote of 127 in favour to 6 against (Kenya, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Yugoslavia, Zambia and Zimbabwe), with 26 abstentions, the Assembly decided last night that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia must apply for membership in the Organization and not participate in the work of the Assembly.

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Milan Panic, Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressing the Assembly last night, formally requested membership of the United Nations on behalf of "the new Yugoslavia". He said he was sure that his country and his Government could meet the conditions for membership and stressed that support from the United Nations to his country at this time would further the cause of peace. Rejection would impede it, he added.

A number of speakers questioned the resolution's legal basis, stating that it bypassed the Charter, set a dangerous precedent and posed a threat to ongoing peace negotiations.

Introducing the 45-power text, the representative of the United Kingdom said the Assembly would be acting upon the recommendation of the Security Council and thus following the procedure laid down in the United Nations Charter for membership questions.

The action last night marks the first time the General Assembly has voted to remove a Member State from its seat in the Assembly. South Africa was suspended from the General Assembly in 1974.

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Opening the General Assembly debate this morning, President Levon Ter-Petrossian of Armenia, said his country was going through the democratization of its institutions and the reforms of its economy in an environment dominated by blockades, high unemployment, a declining standard of living and an acute energy crisis. At the same time, Armenia was compelled to devote a significant portion of its resources to undertake reconstruction efforts following the 1988 earthquake.

Democracy and independence had played a fundamental role in the development of Armenia's foreign policy, Mr. Ter-Petrossian said. His country had recently signed bilateral agreements with two of its neighbors, Georgia and Iran, while undertaking discussions with Turkey on the normalization of their relations.

Reiterating that Armenia had no territorial claims against Azerbaijan, he said his Government stood ready to bring its constructive participation toward a dialogue with that country. He pointed out, however, that the people of Nagorno-Karabakh could not be reduced to an ethnic minority, nor could it be denied the right to self-determination. It was time that their protection be secured through permanent international guarantees.

El Salvador's President, Alfredo Cristiani acknowledged that, while significant progress towards peace in his country had been made, there were still technical, logistical, financial and political difficulties. With the support of the United Nations, however, his country was now in a position to conclude the crucial stages of the peace agreement, in particular the cessation of armed confrontation by 31 October, he said.

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Describing the peace agreement as "sound and convincing to the Salvadoran people and the entire world, because it empowers and expands democracy", Mr. Cristiani said his country would like to move to another important stage of this process, where free political activity would determine conditions in all areas of his country's life.

The role and function of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) were in keeping with the new dimensions of the role to be played by the United Nations in the post Cold War period, the Salvadoran President said. Mr Cristiani also called on the most economically powerful nations to renew their commitment to contribute to the costly process of peace in his country. "El Salvador does not want to deprive itself of the great opportunity provided by peace", he said.

Peace through peace-keeping operations, peace through economic and social development and peace through international cooperation were emphasized by Roland Dumas, Minister of Foreign Affairs of France, in his statement to the Assembly.

The French Foreign Minister pointed out that there were cases where the international community must intervene even though the cease-fire was neither complete nor lasting. Having become the leading participant in peace-keeping forces with some 6,000 men under the United Nations flag, Mr. Dumas went on to say, France was aware of the need to define, for specific situations, emergency measures for sending a warning and providing protection. He announced that the French Government would make available to the United Nations, at any time, a contingent of 1,000 men for peace-keeping operations. He expressed the hope that others would follow this example.

The French Minister also emphasized the importance of strengthening the cooperation between regional organizations in the face of the increasing number of conflicts, and proposed that the members of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) adopt a code of conduct which would encompass and define the norms governing collective security.

Turning to the issue of social and economic development, Mr. Dumas launched an appeal to member States to devote at least 0.7 per cent of their respective Gross National Product to official development assistance, pointing out that his country had doubled the amount of its financing to the World Environment Fund and had contributed to the establishment of a 20-billion-franc program agreed upon by the European community.

The State Councillor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, Mr. Qian Qichen, told the Assembly that a new international order should be based on the principle of non-interference in each other's internal affairs. All countries should have the right to choose a social system and a road to development suited to their actual conditions. Countries should respect each other, treat each other as equals and resolve their disputes through peaceful negotiations. Only when the countries undertake to observe those principles can there be genuine democracy in international relations, he said.

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He pointed out that China had long stood for the complete prohibiton and thorough destruction of all weapons of mass destruction. Pending the realization of that goal, he said, it was necessary to take, as a transitional step, appropriate measures to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. At the same time, Mr. Qian Qichen expressed opposition to attempts to "interfere in and obstruct normal cooperation between sovereign States under the pretext of preventing the proliferation of arms," and he strongly condemned selling large amounts of advanced weapons and equipment to "grossly interfere in another country's internal affairs".

The Chinese Foreign Minister stressed that for the people of developing countries, the right to subsistence and the right to development were undoubtedly "the fundamental and most important human rights of all". It was one-sided and harmful "to make irresponsible comments about the human rights situation in developing countries in disregard of the difference in historical background and cultural tradition, as well as the actual conditions in these countries", he said.

In his statement, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, Klaus Kinkel, said his country's contribution to international stability would continue to focus on peace-making -- through economic cooperation, protection of human rights, humanitarian aid, and international measures - to protect the environment. But the constitutional basis must also be established so that Germany could be enabled to make armed forces available to the United Nations for peace-keeping and peace-making assignments. He added that, while his Government would not take the initiative, Germany would also seek a permanent seat in the Security Council if a change in the Council's composition was actually considered.

Turning to recent incidents concerning refugees in Germany, Mr. Kinkel pointed out that Germany, of all the European countries, had taken in the largest number of asylum-seekers -- some 400,000 -- and 220,000 refugees from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In view of the high level of unemployment and the shortage of housing, especially in the eastern part of the country, the influx of refugees had placed an exceptional burden on the population, he said. The German Minister emphasized however that he was not trying to tone down the problem. The hatred demonstrated and the terror perpetrated by a radical minority against asylum-seekers was a disgrace, he said.

Looking to his country's future since it established statehood last year, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus, Pyotr Kravchanka, told the Assembly that much of its foreign policy programme priorities had been realized. Nuclear tactical weapons had been withdrawn from its territory and Belarus had made a commitment to withdraw strategic weapons during a 7-year period. In the political sphere, he said, Belarus would continue to act in accordance with the constitutional principles of a neutral and non-nuclear state. The country also hoped to adopt a new Constitution making the process of democratization irreversible.

Mr. Kravchanka expressed dissatisfaction with the "almost complete inactivity of the United Nations in the implementation of General Assembly

resolutions on strengthening, implementing and mitigating the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster". Belarus was a victim of the largest nuclear disaster in human history, he said, noting that even the small secretariat established to organize the implementation of the resolution was "silently observing the situation from Vienna".

In his address to the Assembly, the Head of State of Sierra Leone, Valentine E.M. Strasser, appealed to the United Nations for its economic, military and diplomatic support to eliminate the campaign of "terror and destabilization" of the whole region undertaken by outside forces as a result of a total breakdown of law and order in Liberia. Sierra Leone had provided a base for the peace-keeping force of the Economic Community Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) in Liberia and because of that the country had been the object of a "premeditated and unwarranted invasion" by armed groups from Liberia.

While the external factors contributing to the decline in the economical conditions could not be denied, Sierra Leone also suffered from the "incompetence and malpractices of the previous governmenmt which left the nation to drift without direction", President Strasser said. He reiterated his Government's intention to implement the swift reconstruction process of the country and pledged Sierra Leone's commitment to the rule of law and to the fundamental human rights and freedoms of the individual.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Fernando Solana told the Assembly that the best preventive diplomacy was one in which programmes in support of development were an essential element.

Recalling that the richest fifth of the world's population accounted for 83 per cent of the total income, while the poorest fifth had to make do with 1.4 per cent of that income, he said that the unprecedented increase in migrations to the more prosperous countries was one of the global impact of these inequalities. He then stressed Mexico's promotion of expanding markets, and the need for flows of goods and services to grow without artificial barriers of a political or economic nature Without protectionist barriers, the developing countries could earn around $44 billion more from exports, he said.

Mr. Solana went on to say that too much attention to the so-called new global issues was paid at the expense of development problems, combating extreme poverty and strengthening international co-operation. He therefore called on the Assembly to increase the efficiency of the organs responsible for economic and social activities, including the Economic and Social Council and the second and third committees of the Assembly.

The Head of Government and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Liechtenstein, Hans Brunhart, announced his Government's intention to invite each Government and observer group represented in the General Assembly to nominate an independent expert to attend a meeting of experts in Liechtenstein next March. That meeting would be convened to further develop ideas on the principle of self-determination advanced by Liechtenstein's Head of State, Prince Hans-Adam II, during his address to the General Assembly last year.

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Mr. Brunhart recalled the concerns expressed by Prince Hans-Adam II on the need to find ways of promoting peaceful solutions to many conflicts rooted in tensions between communities and States, within the framework of the principle of self-determination. While acknowledging United Nations' commitment to that principle, he asserted that its practical and peaceful application had often been lacking.

Liechtenstein had undertaken extensive consultations on that question with a number of delegations, he told the Assembly, urging that the world body take steps to make the right tooelf-determination more effective and by doing so contribute to the avoidance of some future conflicts.

In his statement to the Assembly yesterday, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Poland, Krzysztof Skubiszewski, said his country, as a contributor of military contingents to the United Nations peace-keeping forces around the world, recognized the urgent need of reassessment of the tasks and structure of this type of operations, including the establishment of a standing force at the disposal of the Organization. Another subject that deserved examination was the financing of the peace-keeping operations out of defence budgets of States, he said.

Addressing the issue of human rights, the Polish Foreign Minister noted that the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights should elaborate an action-oriented programme for the promotion and implementation of human rights as well as for the prevention of their violations. There was no justification for any differentiation in understanding the contents and the meaning of human rights, he said. Nor was there any room for their selective application.

Mr. Skubiszewski also expressed concern at a possible division based on the level of economic development in Europe, and called for a reform of the international economic relations which would take into account the urgent needs in that area of the Central and Eastern European nations.

The Foreign Minister of Sweden, Margaretha Af Ugglas, praised the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), calling it a "welcome development" whose central task was to support the Eastern European countries in their transition and to help the new States find forms of peaceful coexistence. She pledged last night to work for the "further enhancement of its capacity to build peace and settle conflicts", when Sweden assumes the chairmanship of the CSCE Council of Ministers in December.

On the environment, Mrs. Af Ugglas said industrial and developing countries must work together in a spirit of cooperation and solidarity to deal with threats to our environment and achieve environmentally sound development.

The Swedish Foreign Minister also welcomed the Secretary-General's report "An Agenda For Peace", noting that in an earlier document the Nordic countries had discussed several of the proposals presented in the report. In that document called "Shaping the Peace" - the United Nations in the 1990's", the Nordic countries had appealed for the strengthening of the capacity of the Security Council and the Secretary-General to undertake preventive diplomacy.

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The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Mr. Enrique Silva Cimma yesterday recalled that his country has traditionally placed at the service of the United Nations the professional experience of its armed forces in the Middle East, the Asian subcontinent, Kuwait, and Cambodia, adding that Chile was prepared to increase its cooperation with the United Nations in the future, should that prove necessary.

Pointing out that his country was now growing at an annual rate of 7 per cent, had reduced inflation to 13 per cent a year and unemployment to around 5 per cent, he said that the benefits for his country would be significantly greater if the ground rules of the international economy were more equitable.

In spite of the structural and logistical difficulties, no matter the outcome of the upcoming elections, the Angolan people would find the road towards a pluralistic and tolerant society, Joao De Deus Pinheiro, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal, told the Assembly last night.

Regarding Mozambique, Mr. Pinheiro said his Government had welcomed the recent meeting between President Chissano and Afonso Dhlakama, President of the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO). Mutual trust and open dialogue would continue to irreversebly advance the Mozambique peace process, in which the United Nations should play a preponderant role, he said.

The Portuguese Foreign Minister also stated that it was necessary "once more" to alert the international community to the situation in East Timor -- "a Non-Self-Governing Territory under Portuguese authority illegally occupied by Indonesia in violation of the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter". Portugal, he said, in its capacity as administering Power recognized by the United Nations, called for a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution, with full respect for the legitimate interests of the East Timorese people, including the right to self-determination.

Pacaline Mferri Bongo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Francophonie of Gabon, urged the international community not to allow African countries to be trapped in the continuing spiral of economic recession and debt. The serious financial difficulties facing most African countries were in fact caused by problems in an unstable international monetary system. The fall in commodity prices had especially hurt African countries, most of which had begun economic reform programmes, she said.

She urged the international community to undertake a series of actions to aid African countries, such as the stabilization of the prices of non-petroleum commodities, a reform of the international monetary system, and increased overseas development assistance. The future of international solidarity, and of the world, would depend on such efforts to improve the human conditions.

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Press Release DH/1232
23 September 1992

Angela King, Chief of the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA) arrived today in Johannesburg to assume her duties as head of the 50-member observer mission which will be deployed to coordinate peace efforts in that country.

According to a United Nations spokesman today, a group of six military observers travelled with Mrs. King, bringing the number of observers already in South Africa to 20. The full contingent of observers is expected to be deployed in October.

The Security Council authorized on 17 August the Secretary-General to deploy, as a matter of urgency, United Nations observers in South Africa to address effectively the areas of concern, in coordination with the structures set up under the National Peace Accord.

The Mission will coordinate its work with the National Peace Committee, the National Peace Secretariat and the Commission of Inquiry regarding the Prevention of Public Violence and Intimidation. In addition, arrangements are being made to ensure coordination between the United Nations observer team and those of the Commonwealth Secretariat, the European Community and the Organization of African Unity.

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The Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Croatia have announced their intention to jointly request the abrogation of the embargo on arms exports imposed by Security Council resolution 713 and the establishment of a Joint Committee in order to coordinate defensive efforts until the aggression against them has been stopped entirely.

In an annex to the Agreement on Frienship and Cooperation between the two Republics dated 23 September, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic also contend that the past diplomatic, political and humanitarian efforts of the international community had not stopped aggression against them, nor have they substantially alleviated the suffering of civilian population.

The two Presidents urge the international community to take energetic action in protecting the two States from aggression, in accordance with Chapter 7 of the United Nations Chapter, and reiterate that the policy of protection of human rights will be promoted "persistently and consistently" in accordance with common and codified international law.

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The troop-contributing countries to United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) have proposed that military observers be deployed in Cyprus instead of infantry units in order to reduce the cost of the operation. They also agreed with a previous proposal by the Secretary-General that UNFICYP should be financed by assessed contributions and not rely on voluntary contributions.

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In his report to the Security Council, dated 21 September, the Secretary-General said contributing Governments had warned the United Nations that they were unable to delay the planned reductions of their contingents until the outcome of the next round of political talks. Negotiations between the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot communities took place at Headquarters in June, July and August, and are scheduled to resume again on 26 October "following a pause for reflection".

According to previous reports by the Secretary-General, UNFICYP "is facing a chronic and ever-deepening financial crisis, which imposes a most unfair burden on the troop-contributing countries". The Secretary-General has been asked by the Council to re-examine the Force's mandate and resources taking into account the realistic options available in current circumstances.

While acknowledging that a critical moment had been reached in the talks between the parties in Cyprus, the contributing countries said their patience had run out and that UNFICYP, in its present form, would shortly become unviable unless the Security Council decided to change the basis of the Force's financing.

The Secretary-General noted however in his report that the situation would not be resolved until the outcome of the next and decisive round of talks was known. If those talks proved succesful, he said, the tasks of UNFICYP might become more extensive, for a fixed period of time.

The eight countries contributing troops to UNFICYP are Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Document S/24581

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The preparatory Committe for the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights concluded its third session in Geneva on 18 September without reaching agreement on a draft provisional agenda for the Conference.

Consultations largely focused on the draft agenda item which stressed the implementation of human rights standards and instruments and considered the effectiveness of the United Nations machinery. Other draft agenda items covered included: consideration of the relationship between development, democracy and the universal enjoyment of human rights and the securing of the necessary financial and other resources for United Nations activities in that field.

The Conference will take place 25 years after the 1968 International Conference on Human Rights in Teheran and in connection with the observance of the International Year for Human Rights. The Committee is due to hold its fourth session at Geneva from 22 March to 2 April 1993 - the final one - before the World Conference, scheduled to take place at Vienna from 14 to June.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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Prepared by Central News

DH/1233
24 September 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General proposes to hold consultations with Co-chairmen of Paris Conference on Cambodia to find way out of "present impasse" citing "persistent failure" by Party of Democratic Kampuchea to meet obligations under Paris Agreement.

+ Co-Chairmen of London Conference on former Yugoslavia express deep concern over reports from Banja Luka region of build-up of tension, bomb incidents and development of ethnic-cleansing campaign; will visit Banja Luka tomorrow to meet with representatives of local communities and humanitarian agencies.

+ General Assembly addressed by Presidents of Indonesia and Slovenia; Vice President of Suriname and Prime Minister of New Zealand; Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kuwait and Belgium; Foreign Ministers of Italy, Yemen, San Marino, Canada; Last night Assembly heard President of Bolivia; Foreign Ministers of Congo, Malaysia, Denmark, Brunei Darussalam and Romania.

+ Security Council concludes that necessary conditions do not exist for modification of sanctions against Iraq; holds consultations on draft text regarding unfreezing of Iraqi assets overseas to finance humanitarian activities and work of Special Commission; Special Commission reports first day of destruction of Iraqi nerve gas.

+ In Geneva, Committee on Rights of Child begins its second session.

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While the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) had made substantial progress since its establishment six months ago, the "persistent failure" of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea (PDK) to meet its obligations in keeping with the Paris Agreements of last October obstructed the full implementation of the peace plan, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He has therefore proposed to ask the Co-chairmen of the Paris Conference -- France and Indonesia -- to undertake consultations in close cooperation with Yasushi Akashi, his Personal Representative and

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For information media—not an official record

himself, with the aim of "finding a way out of the present impasse". That proposal, which is subject to the approval of the Security Council, is contained in a second progress report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Cambodia.

In his report, dated 21 September, the Secretary-General notes that the time is approaching when "some difficult decisions" regarding ways and means of pursuing the UNTAC operation "will have to be seriously considered". In other respects, however, the implementation of UNTAC is proceeding apace, according to the report. Elections are still scheduled to take place no later than May 1993. The repatriation of refugees and displaced persons is making steady progress with more than 115,000 having returned to Cambodia so far. Some 250,000 remain to be repatriated.

According to the latest population estimates, the report says, the voting population appears to be about 5 million, which is somewhat larger than the 4.3 million estimated. The registration of voters is scheduled to begin in October. A proposal to hold a presidential election simultaneously with the election for a constituent assembly is currently being considered. Such a proposal would require the authorization of the Security Council.

The United Nations operation in Cambodia is the largest peace-keeping effort in the history of the Organization with a $1.9 billion budget and involving about 22,000 foreign personnel to oversee the country's transition to a new administration after multi-party elections next spring. The UNTAC military component is almost fully deployed at just below its projected strength of 15,900.
document S/24578

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The Co-chairmen of the London Conference on former Yugoslavia, Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, have expressed deep concern about reports from the Banja Luka region of rising tension, bomb incidents, and intimidation with the potential threat of violence and the development of an ethnic-cleansing campaign.

According to a press statement issued in Geneva today, the Co-chairmen called in Ambassador Pavicevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and Dr. Koljevic, the representative of the Bosnian Serbs, and urged that immediate steps be taken to reduce tension in the area. Lord Owen and Mr. Vance will fly to Banja Luka tomorrow to assess the situation on the ground and to meet with representatives of the local communities and humanitarian agencies.

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In his address this morning to the General Assembly, Indonesia's President Soeharto, underlined, on behalf on his Government and of the 108 members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), that global problems were interlinked, especially in the economic sphere. He therefore called for a revival of the constructive dialogue between the North and the South based on the imperative of genuine interdependence, mutuality of interests and of

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benefits and shared responsibility, "with the positions of each side clearly elaborated ans presented and rationally discussed and negotiated".

At the same time, he expressed the determination of the non-aligned countries to intensify South-South cooperation on the basis of collective self-reliance. South-South cooperation is vital for promoting our own development and for reducing undue dependence on the North, he said.

Turning to the political situation in former Yugoslavia, the Indonesian President condemned the "massive atrocities and violations of human rights being committed against the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially its Muslim population". He reaffirmed the inadmissibility of aggression and of acquisition of territory by force and called for the full respect for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and cultural identity of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

On human rights, Mr. Soeharto pointed out that democracy was not a static concept limited to certain established forms and practices. No single model of democracy could be assumed to be of universal applicability, given the diversity of cultural values and historical experiences of the nations of the world Moreover, he noted, it would be a denial of the basic tenets of democracy if its values were to be strictly observed within nations, while they were being ignored among nations.

Expressing his pessimism at the situation in former Yugoslavia, the Foreign Minister of Italy, Emilio Colombo, noted that "in spite of the assurances and undertakings given by Prime Minister Panic", the fighting continued in Bosnia-Herzegovina and humanitarian assistance was impossible to deliver. He launched an appeal to the international community to help bring an end to the suffering of civilian populations and to the total destruction of that country.

Citing Somalia as an example of the "total detachment and lack of concern shown by the affluent societies toward countries plagued by poverty and disease", the Italian Minister called for an international initiative involving organizations and countries able to contribute to the pacification and reconstruction of Somalia. That country needed guidance, partners, in short, a government, he said.

Mr. Colombo also informed the Assembly that the dispute between his country and Austria over the Alto Adige area had ended last June, following a lengthy process involving the elaboration and application at the national level of a package of measures adopted by Italy, in consultation with the representatives of the German-speaking population of that region.

Abdul Aziz Al-Dali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Yemen stated this morning that the new unity of his country would not be at the expense of the neighbouring States.

Yemen was willing to negotiate borders with all neighbouring countries, he said. Furthermore, he informed the Assembly that negotiations between his

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country and Oman had reached the final stage. Regarding the borders with Saudi Arabia, they were also being negotiated, he said, which proved the reality of Yemen's intention to cooperate with the countries of the Arab peninsula.

Speaking about the peace talks in the Middle East, he said the negotiations would not be successful unless the principle of "land for peace" was accepted along with Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories.

In his statement before the General Assembly this morning, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of San Marino, Gabriele Gatti, noted that the force rooted in and safeguarded by a democratic government was necessary to freedom in order to support peace.

Even though the most advanced democracies do not meet the two requisites of freedom - not depending on others' will and participating in the decisions that concern us, Mr. Gatti expressed his conviction that any other form of political regime would deprive men even more of their freedoms.

In democratic institutions the exercise of power - both political and military - was a service rendered in favour of the civil and democratic growth and of the social-economic development of the entire community, a service in favour of the individual which was never above or against him, he stressed. Those who used power against a part of the community, against a minority or a group of individuals, or those who hindered or made the civil, cultural, social and economic development recede must account for their actions, he said.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, Barbara McDougall, strongly protested the resurgence of the "abhorrent" practice of ethnic cleansing, saying it represents the "basest form of inhumanity and abuse of the individual" which could not be tolerated by the world community. She told the Assembly that Canada would press for a draft statute by the International Law Commission to establish an international criminal court. To that end, Canada would shortly convene an international meeting of experts to mobilize legal expertise on the issue.

Mrs. McDougall urged that the concept of peace-keeping be further refined to meet the challenges of the 1990's and praised the Secretary-General's proposals on preventive diplomacy. Her Government also urged the Security Council to adopt the option of preventive peace-keeping when lives could be saved and confrontation averted. Some 4,300 Canadian men and women served under the United Nations flag -- ten per cent of the entire peace-keeping personnel, she said. Another 45 members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were committed to serve with United Nations civilian forces in the former Yugoslavia. Countries which made available such civilian experts, she said, should have their supplemental costs reimbursed.

The President of Slovenia, Milan Kucan, in his address to the Assembly this afternoon, said that his country's most immediate interest concerning the recent London Conference on former Yugoslavia was the situation of refugees of which Slovenia had more than 70,000. He called for a review of the

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suitability of institutional arrangements, saying that one million Muslim refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina, who had fled from genocide and ethnic cleansing, were now widely scattered throughout Europe. They were becoming a nation without a land, he said.

While Slovenia was not in dispute with any of the nations of former Yugoslavia, Mr. Kucan said, his country supported measures against the policies of Serbia and Montenegro and opposed their attempt to succede the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The action by the General Assembly to reject the "so-called" Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) was convincing proof that the United Nations was capable of showing the necessary decisiveness to condemn States that flagrantly violated peace, security and human rights.

Jules R. Ajodhia, Vice President of the Republic of Suriname, in his statement, expressed his confidence that the Organization of American States would render its valuable support in verifying the compliance with the recently signed agreement for national reconciliation and development in his country. He said however that newly restored democracies like Suriname were fragile and depended to a considerable extent on international understanding and support.

With regard to the re-established development cooperation with the Netherlands, he pointed out that the signing of the "framework treaty for friendship and closer cooperation" has added a new dimension to the bilateral relations between the two nations. Mr. Ajodhia informed the Assembly that progress had been made in establishing a much needed degree of political stability in Suriname; thus, he said, the Government can now concentrate on finding solutions for the current grave economicx problems and social crisis confronting Suriname.

Security in the Gulf region was part and parcel of global security, Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Minister of Kuwait told the Assembly. While the Security Council had obviously succeeded in ensuring the liberation of his country, the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister noted that certain implications of the Iraqi aggression continued to "loom in the horizon" as long as the Iraqi regime persisted in its rejection to comply fully with the Security Council's resolutions. For instance, he said, there were still Kuwaiti and third country prisoners held hostages in Iraqi jails, and Iraq was still rejecting assumption of legal responsibility for its plundering of property owned by Kuwaiti private sector and individuals.

The Minister called on the international community to bring further pressure on Iraq and to remain vigilant to that country's "practices and schemes". The principle of collective responsability still stood and the lessons drawn from that painful and bitter experience should be fully understood and never forgotten, he said.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, Willy Claes, this afternoon paid tribute to the steadfast efforts of the Conference on Disarmament,

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currently chaired by his country, and appealed for universal acceptance of the recently concluded chemical Weapons Convention which aims to eliminate the "particularly barbarous weapons from all arsenals".

He also expressed concern about the economic problems in Africa, a region to which his country felt "particularly close". Welcoming the widely accepted link between democracy, human rights and development, he said Belgium was now inspired not by "a new "paternalism", but hoped to enter into cooperation as equal partners to support political renewal in Africa.

Among his Governments initiatives were the establishment of a fund to assist the financing of democratic elections; influencing its partners and relevant international institutions to ensure that the dawning of democracy is accompanied by an upturn in economic activity; and intensifying emergency aid in several zones affected by conflict or natural disasters.

The Belgian Foreign Minister also addressed the question of preventive diplomacy, saying that when prevention reached its limits, the United Nations must be able to resort to other peace-keeping measures. Belgium for its part, he said, had dispatched a battalion to Croatia, units to Bosnia and Herzegovina and was now preparing for deployment in Somalia.

Prime Minister James Brendan Bolger of New Zealand told the Assembly that despite the progress made since the end of the Cold War, the threat from weapons of mass destruction had not yet been removed. He welcomed the "remarkable progress" made by Presidents Bush and Yeltsin in their June agreement, under which the world's two largest nuclear arsenals are to be reduced by 70 per cent. Mr. Bolger also urged that the momentum be kept up saying that, unless decisive action was taken, the dangers from nuclear weapons, proliferation would increase.

The New Zealand Prime Minister called for the strengthening of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) safeguards regime, and urged that an indefinite extension for the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1995 be secured. He also pointed to France's decision to suspend testing in the Pacific, saying it had opened the way for significantly more positive relations between France and the region.

President Jaime Paz Zamora of Bolivia told the Assembly yesterday afternoon that his country was successfully fighting drug trafficking because it had resisted efforts to militarize that fight and to impose plans on the country from the outside. He appealed to the international community to focus on reducing consumption of illicit drugs and to support efforts such as crop substitution.

Bolivia would never give up its aspiration to have a presence on the Pacific Coast, Mr. Zamora said, and denounced the "injust war that has deprived Bolivia of the possibility of being a maritime nation". He noted however that proof of the soundness of Bolivia's pragmatic strategy could be

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found in the agreement with Peru signed last January, which gave Bolivian and Peruvian entrepreneurs control of a seaport, while Bolivia had authority over a small strip of coast.

Development assistance was a fundamental principle for Africa, Benjamin Bounkoulou, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Hydrocarbons of Congo, stated yesterday. That was why the continent would pay close attention to the fine points of the marginalization of its links with the global system. Thus, in the new game of certains interests that wanted to introduce a new culture into the United Nations, Africa would work to preserve the Organization's primary role, as stated by the Charter, in the area of cooperation for economic and social development.

Mr. Bounkoulou said that it was important that the United Nations contribute to efforts for democratization around the world. Congo, he pointed out, was proceeding towards more participatory democracy. Decentralization was the centrepiece of his Government's new policy. The objective was to improve living conditions for the poorest people by giving them the means to have decent housing, water supply and sanitation facilities, basic primary education and income-generating activities.

Foreign Minister Abdulla Ahmad Badawi of Malaysia yesterday reaffirmed his country's special interest in peace and stability and economic well-being in Cambodia as he spoke on matters of regional concern before the General Assembly.

Mr. Badawi said his country stood ready to join Cambodia bilaterally in economic and technical cooperation. He also expressed full support for the United Nations role in Cambodia, assisting in peace-keeping efforts with a contribution of 1,060 men to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

Mr. Badawi also told the Assembly that too much emphasis had been given to the United Nations role in the maintenance of international security, with too little focus on the social and economic dimensions of peace. Furthermore, he said, there was growing concern that the Security Council, particularly the permanent members, tended to select when and where to apply collective measures under the Charter. Citing the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, he said, the Council had yet to respond to requests by a number of the Organization of the Islamic Conference countries for an emergency meeting with a formal debate, much less to invoke Article 42 of Chapter 7 of the Charter.

Welcoming the enlarged role of the United Nations in peace efforts yesterday, Foreign Minister of Denmark, Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, announced that his country, which for more than 25 years had given humanitarian assistance to the victims of the apartheid system, was now prepared to initiate a programme of transitional assistance to South Africa, once an interim government was in place in that country.

The Danish Minister noted that the United Nations faced steadily growing demands for peace-keeping efforts and stressed that these operations should be

seen as an interim offer to the parties to a conflict and must be limited to a few years. "A peace-keeping operation must never by mere length of its existence turn out to be an excuse for the parties not to seek a negotiated settlement of their dispute", he noted. He reiterated his Government's commitment to further contributions to peace-keeping operations, both in Europe and in other parts of the world.

Brunei Darussalam had been engaged in intense diplomatic activity over the past year to establish a wide range of bilateral relations and to participate fully in regional and international organizations, according to Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of that country.

Thus, even small nations could contribute to the success of the United Nations which, in turn, should complement regional and international institutions. That could be illustrated by the part the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) had played in finding a solution to the Cambodian problem. A continuing spirit of cooperation among the parties to any international settlement had to be encouraged, he said.

The Foreign Minister also emphasized that social and economic problems faced by a great number of developing nations posed a threat to their internal security and, therefore, to international security. It was therefore vital, he said, that developing and developed countries engage in peace-building together.

Adrian Nastase, Foreign Minister of Romania, called attention to his country's upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections -- scheduled for 27 September -- the first since the adoption of the new democratic Constitution. Like all new Central European democracies, Romania was trying simultaneously to create new political structures and new workable economic mechanisms, he said, citing achievements of his Government, such as the guaranteed rights of national minorities, local elections and the building up of economic and financial market mechanisms.

Efforts to restore and consolidate democracy in Romania could not, however, be isolated from the international environment. Of major concern was the situation in Yugoslavia. He said his country had remained "unbiased by territorial or other interests" and was determined to contribute further to the efforts of the international community to restore peace, and stability in Yugoslavia.

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The President of the Security Council, José Ayala Lasso (Ecuador), issued a statement on behalf of Council members today saying that the Council had concluded, following consultations, that the necessary conditions did not exist for a modification of the sanctions regime against Iraq established in resolution 687 (1991).

In a separate development, the United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Sir David Hannay, told correspondents that the Council had

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held consultations this morning regarding the unfreezing of Iraqi assets overseas to finance the United Nations humanitarian activities in Iraq and the work of the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament. He said the Council would have preferred Iraqi implementation of Council resolutions 706 and 712 (1991) concerning that country's oil sale for humanitarian supplies, but the Iraqi Government had rejected those resolutions. The Council would take action 'in the reasonably near future, but not in the next two or three days", Sir David Hannay said.

In other news today, the Special Commission set up to oversee the disposal of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction has begun the destruction of nerve agent on a large scale in a newly commissioned hydrolysis plant.

In a press release issued at Headquarters today, the team's chief inspector, Garth Whitty, reported that the first day's operations went "without a hitch". By a combination of continuous air monitoring and sample-taking and analysis, the experts were able to ensure that the agent had been thoroughly destroyed and that there had been no contamination of the surrounding environment.

The operation was expected to continue on a daily basis and to increase throughout as the team and their Iraqi counterparts gained experience.

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The Committee on the Rights of the Child, responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, began its second session today in Geneva.

During its two-week session, this newest human rights body will continue to deal with organizational matters such as the submission of reports by States parties in accordance with the Convention; the system of documentation and information, among other things.

A day of general discussion, to take place on 5 October, will be devoted to the topic of "Children in armed conflicts", with the relevant agencies and individual experts among those invited to participate.

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